

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed July 19, 2004. In order to advance prosecution of the present Application, Claims 1, 19, and 20 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this Application.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) as including reference numerals not mentioned in the specification. The specification has been amended to show the reference numerals provided in the drawings identified by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the drawings are in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5).

The specification stands objected to under M.P.E.P. §608.01 as containing an embedded hyperlink or other form of browser executable code. The specification merely includes a text version of a website link for background identification purposes only that has no executable or linking capability. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the specification is in accordance with M.P.E.P. §608.01.

Claim 1 stands provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 10-12 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/780,755. Attached herewith is a terminal Disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

Claims 9, 19, and 20 stand provisionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 9, 13, and 14 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/780,755. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 9 of the present Application is a system claim whereas Claim 9 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/780,755 is a method claim. Claim 19 of the present Application has been amended to be directed to a system as opposed to the method of Claim 13 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/780,755.

Claim 20 of the present Application includes a control block feature not present in Claim 14 of copending U.S. Application Serial No. 09/780,755. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9, 19, and 20 are in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claims 1, 9-11, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mayes, et al. Independent Claims 1, 19, and 20 recite in general the ability to allocate particular addresses within the client NAT address range, free the particular addresses in the client NAT address range, and deallocate the client NAT address range. Further, the particular addresses within the client NAT address range remain allocated within the subpool until all of the particular addresses within the client NAT address range have been freed. By contrast, the connection slots of the Mayes, et al. patent do not contain client NAT addresses let alone having particular client NAT addresses remain allocated in a subpool until all connection blocks are free as provided in the claimed invention. Support for the above recitation can be found at page 18, lines 1-4, of Applicant's specification. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1, 9-11, 19, and 20 are not anticipated by the Mayes, et al. patent.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mayes, et al. in view of Albert, et al. Independent Claim 1 has been shown above to be patentably distinct from the Mayes, et al. patent. Moreover, the Albert, et al. patent does not include any additional disclosure combinable with the Mayes, et al. patent that would be material to patentability of this claim. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentably distinct from the proposed Mayes, et al. - Albert, et al. combination.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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